

Updates from GoTriangle about Our Transit Future

Our Transit Future [info@ourtransitfuture.com]

Sent: 9/1/2015 5:02 AM

To: "Triangle Transit" <info@ourtransitfuture.com>

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Our Transit Future Newsletter

A Note from the D-O LRT Project Staff



Thank you for your support of transit and your commitment to helping us improve transportation in Durham, Orange and Wake counties. You've chosen an exciting time to be involved with transit in the Triangle.

Below are a few of the things we have been working on:

DEIS for the Proposed D-O LRT Project Published and Public Comment Period Open

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project was published in the *Federal Register*, on Friday, August 28, 2015. Hard copies are available at several locations, including: Durham County Public Libraries, Orange County Public Libraries and GoTriangle's Administrative Office. You can also view or download the DEIS on our website: ourtransitfuture.com/deis.

With the publication in the *Federal Register*, the official public comment period for the DEIS is now open. You can review and comment on the DEIS until October 13, 2015

Overview

The DEIS evaluates the environmental, transportation, social, and economic impacts associated with the transportation improvements in the Durham-Orange (D-O) Corridor serving the cities of Chapel Hill and Durham in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. The DEIS documents the evaluation of the No Build Alternative and the NEPA Preferred and Project Element Alternatives. The No Build Alternative is defined and analyzed to provide the base against which the NEPA Preferred and Project Element Alternatives can be compared.

Planning for high-capacity transit in the Research Triangle region began more than 20 years ago, and a number of studies have been conducted to advance major transit investments in the area. The proposed D-O LRT Project consists of a 17-mile light rail project from southwest Chapel Hill to eastern Durham and includes several educational, medical, and other key activity centers which generate a large number of trips each day. The D-O LRT Project would include 17 stations and has Project Element Alternative including two sections with

alignment alternatives (i.e. Little Creek with four alignment options and New Hope Creek with three alignment options). Additionally, there are five Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility (ROMF) options under consideration. The NEPA Preferred Alternative contains the preferred alignment options, one ROMF option, and station selections in each area where alignment and station alternatives exist.

[Learn more about and view the DEIS](#)

How to Comment During the 45-Day Public Comment Period

You can comment any of five ways:

1. Email us at info@ourtransitfuture.com
2. Submit a web-based comment form: ourtransitfuture.com/comment
3. Mail a letter to D-O LRT Project - DEIS, C/O GoTriangle, Post Office Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560
4. Submit a written comment form at two public information sessions and two public hearings.
5. Sign-up to speak at a public hearing.

All methods of commenting will receive equal weight. All comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the development of the combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD), which is expected in February 2016. A response to substantive comments will be included in the combined FEIS/ROD.

Be advised that your entire comment, including name, address, phone number, email address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act (N.C.G.S. § 132.1 et seq.).

[Learn more about where and how to comment on the DEIS](#)

GoTriangle to Hold Public Hearings

GoTriangle will hold two formal public hearings on the DEIS.

- Tuesday, September 29, from 4-7 p.m. at the Friday Center: 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- Thursday, October 1, from 4-7 p.m. at the Durham County Commissioners' Chamber: 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

Each speaker who signs up to between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be allowed two minutes to comment. The hearings are being held to solicit comments regarding the proposed D-O LRT Project. A court reporter will be present to record verbal comments. Hearing participants will also have the opportunity to submit comments in writing during the hearings. Comments received verbally and in writing will receive equal weight.

Auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the hearings will be provided. Anyone requiring special services should contact Natalie Murdock via email: nmurdock@gotriangle.org or by phone: (919) 485.7569 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

[Learn More About Public Hearings](#)

GoTriangle to Hold Public Information Sessions

GoTriangle will hold two public information sessions on the DEIS in advance of the public hearings.

- Tuesday, September 15, from 4-7 p.m. at the Friday Center: 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- Saturday, September 19, from 2-5 p.m. at Durham Station Transportation Center: 515 W. Pettigrew Street, Durham, NC 27701

[Learn More About Public Information Sessions](#)

What is a Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility

We have been hearing this question a lot, so we made a webpage for you to learn more: ourtransitfuture.com/ROMF.

Updates from GoTriangle about Our Transit Future

Our Transit Future [info@ourtransitfuture.com]

Sent: 9/14/2015 11:04 AM

To: "Triangle Transit" <info@ourtransitfuture.com>

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Below are a few of the things we have been working on:

DEIS Information Sessions Tuesday and Saturday

GoTriangle will hold two public information sessions on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) this week.



UNC Friday Center
4-7 p.m.
100 Friday Center Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517



Durham Station
Transportation Center
2-5 p.m.
515 W. Pettigrew Street
Durham, NC 27701

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D-O LRT Project consists of a 17-mile light rail project from southwest Chapel Hill to eastern Durham and includes several educational, medical, and other key activity centers which generate a large number of trips each day. The D-O LRT Project would include 17 stations and has Project Element Alternative including two sections with alignment alternatives (i.e. Little Creek with four alignment options and New Hope Creek with three alignment options) and two station alternatives for the Duke/VA Medical Centers. Additionally, there are five Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility (ROMF) options under consideration. The NEPA Preferred Alternative contains the preferred alignment options, one ROMF option, and station selections in each area where alignment and station alternatives exist.

Hard copies are available at several locations, including: Durham County Public Libraries, Orange County Public Libraries and GoTriangle's Administrative Office. You can also view or download the DEIS on our website: ourtransitfuture.com/deis.

The official public comment period for the DEIS is now open. You can review and comment on the DEIS until October 13, 2015.

Auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the hearings will be provided. Anyone requiring special services should contact Natalie Murdock via email: nmurdock@gotriangle.org or by phone: (919) 485.7569 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

[Learn more about and view the DEIS](#)

How to Comment on the DEIS

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[Learn more about where and how to comment on the DEIS](#)

GoTriangle to Hold Public Hearings

If you wish to give verbal comments, GoTriangle will hold two formal public hearings on the DEIS.

- Tuesday, September 29, from 4-7 p.m. at the Friday Center: 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- Thursday, October 1, from 4-7 p.m. at the Durham County Commissioners' Chamber: 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

Each speaker who signs up to between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be allowed two minutes to comment. The hearings are being held to solicit comments regarding the proposed D-O LRT Project. A court reporter will be present to record verbal comments. Hearing participants will also have the opportunity to submit comments in writing during the hearings. Comments received verbally and in writing will receive equal weight.

Auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the hearings will be provided. Anyone requiring special services should contact Natalie Murdock via email: nmurdock@gotriangle.org or by phone: (919) 485.7569 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Notice to the Public of Section 106 Assessment of Effects for Historic Properties Request for Public Comment

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority (dba "Triangle Transit"), is currently in the project development phase for the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project (an "Undertaking," pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.4(a)(1) and 800.16(d)). In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and 36 C.F.R. 800, the FTA and Triangle Transit herewith advise all interested persons or groups that the proposed project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

The proposed D-O LRT Project is a 17 mile double-track Light Rail Transit (LRT) line with 17 proposed stations that will greatly expand transit service in Durham and Orange Counties. The D-O LRT Project extends from western terminus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) at the UNC Hospitals Station to the eastern terminus in Durham at the Alston Avenue Station.

Section 106 regulations require that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) identify historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE); assess effects to historic properties; avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any adverse effects; and consult with North Carolina's State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties throughout the Section 106 process as appropriate.

Twenty-five historic properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register have been identified within the D-O LRT Project's APE. These historic properties include buildings, districts, and structures. The effects of the D-O LRT on all historic properties were assessed and are documented in a Section 106 Assessment of Effects for Historic Properties Report, which was prepared in compliance with C.F.R 800.4 and 800.5. FTA and Triangle Transit have determined that the project will have "No Effect" on thirteen properties and "No Adverse Effect" on twelve properties out of the 25 National Register or National Register eligible properties located within the APE. This determination was made in consultation with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties.

Any person or group wishing to submit comments regarding the No Adverse Effect determination to these historic properties may do so in writing. The public comment period for the review of the Section 106 Assessment of Effects for Historic Properties Report will extend from September 11, 2015 to October 13, 2015. Comments may be mailed or emailed. Emailed comments should be marked "SECTION 106" in the subject line and directed to info@ourtransitfuture.com. Mailed comments should be mailed to SECTION 106/D-O LRT Project c/o Triangle Transit, P.O. Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560. Letters must be postmarked no later than October 13, 2015.

The Section 106 Assessment of Effects for Historic Properties Report will be available for public inspection and copying at GoTriangle's Administrative Offices at 4600 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC 27703 or online at <http://ourtransitfuture.com/projects/durham-orange/>.

[Review the Section 106 documentation](#)

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GoTriangle
4600 Emperor Blvd
Suite 100
Durham, NC27703



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Our Transit Future [info@ourtransitfuture.com]

Sent: 9/28/2015 8:21 PM

To: "Triangle Transit" <info@ourtransitfuture.com>

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Durham County
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[Learn More About Public Hearings](#)

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[View the Public Information Session Materials](#)

Making the Most of your Comment

Comments may be the most important contribution from citizens. Accordingly, comments should be clear, concise, and relevant to the analysis of the proposed action. Take the time to organize thoughts and edit the document submitted.

Comments that are solution oriented and provide specific examples will be more effective than those that simply oppose the proposed project. Comments that contribute to developing alternatives that address the purpose and need for the action are also effective.

In drafting comments, try to focus on the purpose and need of the proposed action, the proposed alternatives, the assessment of the environmental impacts of those alternatives, and the proposed mitigation. It also helps to be aware of what other types of issues the decisionmaker is considering in relationship to the proposed action.

Commenting is not a form of "voting" on an alternative. The number of negative comments an agency receives does not prevent an action from moving forward. Numerous comments that repeat the same basic message of support or opposition will typically be responded to collectively. In addition, general comments that state an action will have "significant environmental effects" will not help an agency make a better decision unless the relevant causes and environmental effects are explained.

Finally, remember that decision-makers also receive other information and data such as operational and technical information related to implementing an action that they will have to consider when making a final decision.

– Excerpts from the *CEQ Citizens Guide to NEPA* (P. 27)

[Learn more about where and how to comment on the DEIS](#)

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GoTriangle
4600 Emperor Blvd
Suite 100
Durham, NC27703



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